

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of June 22, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Based on Chen Reference

All claims stand rejected under some combination of Chen *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,731,936, hereinafter Chen), as follows:

Claims 1-5, 9-15, 18-21, 23-26, 29-32, 34, 37-40, 43-45 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen.

Claims 6, 22, 33 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of McCormick (U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,455, hereinafter McCormick).

Claims 7, 16, 27, 35, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Examiner official notice.

Claims 8, 17, 28, 36, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Das et al. (U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0036834 A1, hereinafter Das).

The primary reference cited in each rejection is Chen, which has a filing date of August 20, 2001. The filing date of the present application is November 19, 2001. Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Second Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 establishing invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of Chen.

With Chen having been removed as an applicable reference, all the rejections are respectfully traversed. Should the Office deem the attached Second Declaration insufficient, applicants reserve the right to provide additional evidence, and also to provide arguments over Chen based on the merits of the reference, and more specifically, based on deficiencies of Chen as compared to the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

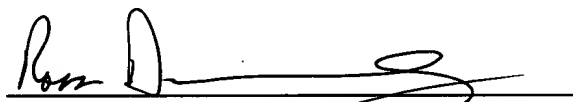
It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 4 day of Oct., 2004

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